

Region 1Hot Topics**Region 1 Hosts EPCRA Workshop in Connecticut**

On January 15, R1 hosted a half-day compliance assistance workshop on Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and Clean Air Act, Section 112(r) Risk Management Program (RMP) at the University of Connecticut. The workshop trained 198 individuals on EPCRA Tier 2 reporting requirements and provided assistance and resources for EPCRA reporting.

Region 1 Continues Stormwater Compliance Assistance

On January 16, R1 provided training to 253 individuals through the Soak up the Rain webinar series on "Building Resilience Through Living Shorelines." Key speakers during the training included the Nature Conservancy, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and the University of New Hampshire.

Region 1 Conducts Brownfields Outreach in Opportunity Zones

On January 16, R1 met with the Mystic River Watershed Steering Committee and the Malden Redevelopment Commission regarding property in Malden, Massachusetts to discuss brownfields assessment and cleanup funding options. Also, On January 21, R1 conducted outreach to the Town of Lincoln, ME, regarding the Land Revitalization technical assistance program. The Town of Lincoln has previously received brownfields funding for the redevelopment of the former Lincoln Paper & Tissue Mill. Both communities are located in Opportunity Zones.

EPA Continues Work to Improve Water Quality in Lake Champlain, Vermont

On January 17, the joint U.S./CA advisory group for the International Joint Commission's (IJC) study of Lake Champlain phosphorus management issues submitted the final report to the IJC. The final report includes changes to the report and recommendations, taking into account comments received during the public comment period. On January 23, R1 attended the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) Executive Committee meeting in Grand Isle, Vermont. The committee discussed citizen action committee coordination, the LCBP funding process, grant award decisions, and development of the FY20 budget of \$13.4 million.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Region 1 to Propose Listing Lower Neponset River on NPL**

R1 will submit an NPL Site Characterization Form for the Lower Neponset River to OLEM/OSRTI on or before the January 29th deadline. The Site Characterization Form provides information to be presented at the February 4 NPL Listing Panel. During the NPL Listing Panel, R1 will present the basis for potential listing of the site on the NPL.

Region 1 to Award Brownfields Job Training Grant in Opportunity Zone

R1 is processing the award of an Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training grant to the City of New Bedford, MA. The City plans a training program focused on de-leading, HAZWOPER, lead RRP, environmental competency, mold identification and remediation, and other relevant certifications. The City of New Bedford is located in an Opportunity Zone.

Region 2Hot Topics**Puerto Rico Earthquake Response**

PR continues to experience numerous smaller quakes, typically 15-25 per day. There is great fear of another larger quake. 7,233 residents are living in shelters. Power is back to over 99% of customers, but the grid is fragile with a likelihood of repeated blackouts/brownouts in parts of the island. PREPA has requested No-Action Assurances with respect to CAA requirements at several facilities. PRASA reports over 99% of its customers have water service. The remainder are receiving water by truck or OASIS unit. There have been demonstrations across the island by residents demanding the resignation of the Governor, for mismanagement of the response. EPA continues on-site hazardous substance and oil assessments; additional quakes may require repeated reassessments. On January 22, EPA received a Mission Assignment for on-site assessment of non-PRASA drinking water systems, and PRASA damage assessment. This is a "direct federal assistance" MA with a 25% cost share requirement that will be difficult for PR given its economic condition.

Gowanus Canal Superfund Site Administrative Order

During the week of January 27, R2 expects to issue a CERCLA unilateral administrative order to six PRPs requiring them to carry out (a) the dredging and capping of contaminated sediments in the upper section of the Canal (known as Remediation Target Area 1 or "RTA 1," one of three RTAs in the Canal); and (b) the cleanup and restoration of the contaminated, filled-in former 1st Street Turning Basin. Respondents are: National Grid, New York City, Con Edison, Hess Corp., Honeywell, and the Brooklyn Improvement Co. The work is estimated to cost \$125 million. It is part of the remedy selected in EPA's 2013 Record of Decision for the site. The remainder of the ROD remedy will be addressed in a future consent decree or administrative order. The Respondents are aware EPA will issue the order. They have retained the contractors necessary to perform most of the required work.

State/Tribal Collaboration on Great Lakes Area of Concern

On January 22, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe announced the signing of a cooperative agreement regarding the St. Lawrence River Area of Concern (AOC) near Massena, NY, and the SRMT Territory. They agreed to serve as co-coordinators for the implementation of the AOC's Remedial Action Plan. The agreement is the first of its kind across the U.S. portion of the Great Lakes. It provides a roadmap for coordinating studies and restoration of natural and cultural resource uses between state and tribal governments, recognizing their unique jurisdictions and shared interests.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**NYC Watershed Riparian Buffer Working Group Meeting:**

On February 5, NYC Department of Environmental Protection will host this annual meeting, which is a deliverable under the Filtration Avoidance Determination. The meeting will focus on diagnosing and amending soil physical, chemical, and biological conditions to enhance plant establishment and growth in vegetation restoration projects.

ORD to Visit Region 2

ORD's Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Chris Robbins, Lou D'Amico, Fred Hauchman, and Jay Benforado will visit R2 during the week of January 27. The visits will include meetings with the R2 Senior Leadership Team and the R2 LSASD managers and staff and a tour of R2's Edison, NJ, lab facility. The ORD representatives will provide briefings on various topics including ORD's PFAS research and innovation grant programs.

West Valley Nuclear Demonstration Site Federal Agency internal meeting

The annual coordination meeting among federal and state agencies regarding this site will take place on January 24. Participating agencies include NYSDEC, NYSDOH, NYSERDA, US Army Corps, US DOE, and EPA. R2 is a reviewing agency to ensure that all cleanup activities meet CERCLA requirements.

Region 3Hot Topics**Brownfield Area-Wide Plan for Kensington Neighborhood Finalized, Philadelphia, PA**

Temple University was awarded a Brownfields Area-Wide Planning grant in 2015 to develop a reuse plan for catalyst Brownfields in a portion of Philadelphia's Lower North Delaware Industrial District. The study area has an estimated 27 potential Brownfields covering 32.6 acres. Temple worked collaboratively with their community partner, New Kensington Community Development Corporation, to incorporate extensive input from residents. The final Area-Wide Plan (<https://www.planviz.org/brownfields>) aspires to protect the health of the community and the environment, positively impact the local economy, and reflect the local community's vision for the area. The community would like to see mixed-use development, green space and a community-centered public space among other ideas.

Pamunkey Tribe Agreement of Sale on Brownfields Site to Develop A Resort and Casino, Norfolk, VA

The Pamunkey Tribe and the City of Norfolk have agreed to develop a 13-acre Brownfield site along the Elizabeth River for a proposed resort and casino. The envisioned Pamunkey Resort & Casino will feature a hotel, restaurants, pools, a spa, and an entertainment venue. In 2016, in partnership with the City of Norfolk and the VADEQ, EPA completed a Targeted Brownfield Assessment (TBA) on portions of the proposed site to assist the City in attracting a developer. The assessment included collecting samples from various environmental media to help determine whether past historical practices may have had an impact. The TBA identified that existing levels of contamination on the site are likely compatible for commercial use. Additionally, the City of Norfolk has received two EPA Brownfield grants since 2017 to assist their efforts to assess sites and plan for Brownfields redevelopment. The City used their EPA Brownfield Area-Wide Planning Grant to design stormwater, infrastructure and transportation plans for the proposed casino site area.

DOJ Files Proofs of Claim in Bankruptcy on Behalf of EPA Against PES Holdings, LLC

On January 17, the U.S. Department of Justice, on behalf of the EPA, filed proofs of claim against PES Holdings, LLC and seven affiliated companies (collectively the "Debtors") in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. On June 21, 2019, equipment failure and a loss of containment at the Debtors' Philadelphia-based refinery ("Facility") caused a fire and subsequent catastrophic explosion and release of hydrofluoric acid ("HF"). Post-accident investigations have supported claims for penalties and potential injunctive relief for violations of CAA Section 112(r)(7) for failure to adhere to industry standards and safely operate and maintain the Facility. In addition, EPA incurred response costs under CERCLA when it responded to the Facility to monitor for the release of HF vapors and to oversee the process of neutralizing the HF that remained on-site. On July 21, 2019, Debtors filed for bankruptcy protection in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware. EPA's proofs of claim: (1) seek penalties and injunctive relief for the Debtors' failure to safely operate the Facility; (2) seek to recover, under CERCLA, the response costs EPA incurred in monitoring conditions at the Facility and overseeing the neutralization of HF after the explosion; (3) seek an order compelling Debtors to comply with their existing cleanup obligations at the Facility pursuant to a 2012 Prospective Purchaser Agreement; and (4) seek stipulated penalties for Debtors' violations of a CAA consent decree and an order requiring the Debtors, or other future operators, to abide by the operating requirements of this consent decree, if the Facility continues to operate as a refinery in the future.

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia

In this final rulemaking notice (FRN), EPA is approving the District's state implementation plan (SIP) revision certifying that no sources exist in the District that are subject to the 2016 Oil and Natural Gas Control Techniques Guideline.

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Allegheny County In

this final rulemaking notice (FRN), EPA is approving Pennsylvania's state implementation plan (SIP) revision to make administrative amendments to the Allegheny County portion of Pennsylvania's SIP.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

RA Servidio has the following event scheduled:

January 29 Cleaner Trucks Initiative, Wayne, PA

Region 4

Hot Topics**Westside Lead Site - Elm Street (Atlanta, GA)**

On January 23, R4 will hold a community meeting for the Westside Lead Cleanup. The meeting will provide R4 the opportunity to answer questions related to the anticipated cleanup activities as well as respond to questions from residents. Contractors are preparing soil staging areas and excavation is scheduled to begin the week of January 27. Currently 368 residential properties are included within the Site parameters. To date, of the 124 properties sampled, 64 have at least some area with lead concentrations greater than the site-specific cleanup goal of 400 parts per million.

El Salvador Assistance Request

OITA and R4 received a request from the U.S. Embassy and USAID in El Salvador provide some general guidance related to a major algae growth impacting a drinking water treatment plant in El Salvador. The Region provided useful treatment information on a call with OITA, the U.S. Embassy, USAID, and El Salvador's Aqueduct & Sewer Authority and will continue to follow up by supplying reference guides on health advisories and algae identification keys. The impacted facility serves about 500,000 homes in the capital of San Salvador.

GA EPD PFAS Sampling Assistance (Summerville, GA)

R4 previously notified GA EPD of a provisional PFAS sampling result above EPA's health advisory level in Raccoon Creek near Summerville, GA. GA EPD requested analytical and sampling support from R4 to test drinking water at the Summerville Water Treatment Facility, to take place as soon as January 23. The state notified the City of Summerville of the provisional result on January 22. GA EPD will lead sampling efforts. R4 will provide lab analyses and technical support in the field during sampling. R4 will continue to coordinate with HQ on communicating data results.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

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| Week of January 27 | RA Walker will hold a press event amplifying the Navigable Waters Protection Rule announcement with Commissioner Black of Georgia's Department of Agriculture. Other participants include the U.S. Corps of Engineers, GA EPD, and the GA Farm Bureau. Open Press. Georgia. |
| January 29 | RA Walker will participate in the Alternative Dispute Resolution Team Collaboration Workshop for the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. Closed Press. Paducah, KY. |

Region 5Hot Topics**DOJ, EPA Reach Settlement with Gulfport Energy to Resolve CAA Violations in Clairsville, Ohio**

EPA this week announced a settlement with Oklahoma City-based Gulfport Energy Corp. for alleged violations of the Clean Air Act at oil and natural gas production wells in Ohio. The settlement addresses Gulfport's failure to capture and control air emissions from storage vessels and to comply with associated inspection, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements. Gulfport will invest another \$2 million in improvements at 17 well pads in eastern Ohio to help reduce volatile organic compound emissions by 313 tons per year. Gulfport will also pay a civil penalty of \$1.7 million.

EPA Begins Process to Remove Lower Menominee River from Areas of Concern on the Great Lakes

EPA and its partner states Wisconsin and Michigan are making progress toward removing the Lower Menominee River in Marinette, WI, from the list of Areas of Concern. In the Lower Menominee River AOC, a variety of remediation, monitoring, and assessment activities overseen by EPA, Wisconsin, and Michigan between 2000 and 2018 have resulted in removal of several environmental impairments, leading to a cleaner and healthier river bottom, a healthier fish and wildlife population, and improved fish and wildlife habitats. After receiving recommendations from the states of Wisconsin and Michigan to delist the AOC, EPA has taken the next step by seeking input from tribal representatives and the International Joint Commission. An opportunity for public comment on the proposed delisting, including a public meeting, will follow in the next few months.

EPA Continues to Analyze "Green Slime" Site Pollution

continues to work closely with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to respond to the Electro Plating Services site, which continues to receive high interest from local media and elected officials. The EPS site became a state and national sensation December 20 when a bright green frozen liquid contaminated with hexavalent chromium began oozing from an embankment onto I-696 in Madison Heights, Mich., near Detroit. EPA and EGLE have installed sumps and trenches to capture the contaminated groundwater. To date 40,000 gallons of contaminated liquid have been collected, and 20,000 gallons have been disposed of offsite. PFOA/PFAS chemicals were also identified in the basement of the plating facility and in soil excavated during trenching at the site. Elevated VOC levels found near the site prompted EPA to begin a vapor intrusion investigation. EGLE will use EPA's vapor intrusion results in the scoring for a preliminary assessment for a possible NPL listing.

R5 Meets with U.S. Rep. Mitchell Regarding Metamora Superfund Site

On January 16, EPA senior managers and staff met with U.S. Rep. Mitchell at the Metamora Landfill site in Metamora Township, MI, to provide an update on the status of EPA's remedial action and provide a site tour.

The Metamora site is a closed landfill with a contaminated groundwater plume. In 2001, the capping of the landfill property was completed, and EPA selected a final remedy for site groundwater. However, in 2007, a new emerging contaminant, 1,4-dioxane, was detected in residential wells downgradient from the site. EPA is evaluating whether additional actions are necessary to address the 1,4-dioxane contamination and whether it may need to amend the groundwater remedy. EPA also discussed an upcoming stakeholder outreach project it is conducting at the Metamora site and a proposed mining operation at the nearby Boy Scouts property.

EPA to Share Soil Sample Results with Residents in DePue, IL, New Jersey Zinc Site

EPA will begin calling individual residents in DePue, IL, this week to discuss the results of soil samples collected from their properties as part of the DePue/New Jersey Zinc/Mobil Chemical Superfund site. EPA plans to begin the residential soil cleanup work this spring. In October 2019, EPA assumed the lead agency role for the DePue site upon request from Illinois EPA. The potentially responsible party at DePue had already begun collecting residential soil data in 2018 to identify homes needing cleanup pursuant to a 2017 cleanup decision that was issued by Illinois EPA with EPA concurrence. However, sampling results had not yet been shared with all residents. EPA is now taking steps to notify residents, in accordance with R5 policy. Of the roughly 800

properties in Operable Unit 4 of the DePue site, 492 parcels have been sampled and about 70% of these properties require some cleanup action.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Region 5 WOTUS Event in Columbus, Ohio

On January 24, RA Thiede and USACE Major General Whittle will participate in a roundtable discussion with Ohio stakeholders and congressmen regarding the Navigable Waters Protection Rule. The roundtable will be at the Ohio Chamber of Commerce offices in Columbus, and will include representatives from the Ohio Manufacturers Association, the Ohio Chemistry Technology Council, American Petroleum Institute and other stakeholder groups. Rep. Bill Johnson is expected to attend, and other congressmen have been invited. Local and trade press have been invited.

Cleaner Truck Event in Columbus, Indiana

On January 27, RA Thiede will visit the Cummins Technical Center in Columbus, IN, to tour their facility and learn more about their emission-control technologies and to discuss EPA's Cleaner Trucks Initiative. Local and trade press will be invited, as well.

Milwaukee River Great Lakes Legacy Announcement

On January 28 RA Thiede will join Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, Wisconsin DNR Secretary Preston Cole and other community leaders to announce a \$28-million Great Lakes Legacy Agreement to design a cleanup plan for the Milwaukee River Area of Concern.

Region 6Hot Topics**Denka Performance Elastomer, La Place, Louisiana**

Deployment of new community air monitoring program for Chloroprene is expected in mid-February and should be fully operation in mid-April. Existing air monitoring will continue until new program is in place. Within the next week, OECA plans to send a letter asking for additional information regarding the cause(s), any corrective actions, and estimated emissions of two significant 24-hour spikes of chloroprene detected at Denka's fence line air monitors occurring on November 15 and December 4, 2019. The government team continues its review of Denka's January 10, comprehensive settlement offer. Former owner DuPont is expected to submit its settlement counteroffer soon.

Oil and Gas Facilities, Permian Basin, Texas and New Mexico

As of January 21, EPA has received responses from 30 of the 32 companies. TCEQ is assisting us in identifying unmatched facilities. The goal is to complete the enforcement assessment of the Texas Permian Basin facilities by February. For the New Mexico facilities, we continue to provide support to New Mexico Environment Department as it prepares follow up actions. A status meeting is scheduled for January 23.

Clean Harbors Lone Mountain, Wynoka, Oklahoma

On January 15, EPA continued discussions with Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality regarding the potential option of a no migration variance to address EPA's regulatory concerns with Clean Harbors' practice of using "put piles" for staging waste while awaiting sampling confirmation of treatment standards being met. Discussion included the availability of prior no migration petitions as examples, as well as what current EPA guidance indicates is necessary for submittal of a petition. On January 22, OLEM AA Wright was briefed regarding guidance being developed by HQ for No-Migration Variance petitions specific to temporary land storage of hazardous waste under the Land Disposal Restrictions. The guidance is intended to streamline and clarify requirements for petitioners for specific temporary storage scenarios such as "put piles." The current practice does not meet the requirements under the Land Disposal Restrictions without a no-migration variance.

Fifth Ward/Kashmere Gardens, Houston, Texas

Congresswoman Jackson Lee hosted a community meeting with environmental advocate Erin Brockovich in the Fifth Ward-Houston about the Union Pacific Railyard contamination this week. At the Congresswoman's request, R6 attended for the purposes of discussing the Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program. R6 received no questions. R6 responded to the Congresswoman's letter requesting a comprehensive investigation under CERCLA stating that the site is being addressed under RCRA corrective action. TCEQ has primacy for RCRA corrective action and is the lead for the site cleanup.

Mosaic Fertilizer Uncle Sam, Convent, Louisiana

EPA conferred with LDEQ on the "may treat/must treat" surge protection provisions and Mosaic's proposed modification of the Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) Permit. Mosaic seeks permission to discharge Reverse Osmosis (RO) treated process wastewater to the Mississippi River. The LPDES Permit does not allow routine discharge of treated process wastewater. A modification of this type could be viewed as "back sliding," and LDEQ is unlikely to approve it.

Los Alamos National Lab MS4, Los Alamos, New Mexico

On January 17, Los Alamos County filed a challenge to the December 17, 2019, designation of Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s) in Los Alamos Urban Cluster and on Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) property as needing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. A January 16 meeting with Los Alamos County, LANL, New Mexico Department of Transportation, Amigos Bravos (the petitioner for the designation), NMED, and EPA was postponed due to inclement weather and will be rescheduled.

Phillips 66 Alliance Refinery, Belle Chasse, Louisiana

On January 29, EPA will host a meeting to discuss the United States and the State of Louisiana's responses to two force majeure notifications sent by Phillips 66 Company pursuant to the Consent Decree in Civil Action No. H-05-0258, United States et al. v. Phillips 66 Company (S.D. Tex.). On December 5, 2019, the United States and the State of Louisiana, a co-plaintiff to the Consent Decree, collectively responded to the September 19 and October 23, 2019 notifications in separate letters addressing each notification. The response letters documented the determination that the events in question did not constitute a force majeure under the Consent Decree.

Major Decisions and Events**ExxonMobil Baytown Chemical Plant, Baytown, Texas**

By January 24, EPA is preparing a formal objection to the TCEQ proposed title V permit for the ExxonMobil Baytown Chemical Plant in Texas. The objection is consistent with decisions regarding recent claims in petitions granted by EPA Administrator. TCEQ will have 90 days from the date of objection to submit a revised permit that resolves all objections.

Exceptional Event Demonstration (2017 and 2018) PM₁₀, El Paso County, Texas

By January 27, EPA anticipates concurring on a TCEQ request that certain ambient air monitoring data be excluded from regulatory actions. The final demonstration submittal cover letter is dated November 11, 2019.

Louisiana SIP Revision for Withdrawal of Stage II Vapor Recovery Systems Requirements, Louisiana

By January 29, EPA anticipates proposed approval to the Louisiana State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision to remove Stage II Gasoline Refueling Vapor Recovery Program. On May 30, 2019, EPA received a request from Louisiana to withdraw Stage II Vapor Recovery Systems requirements.

Functional Redesignation for Ozone NAAQS, Houston, Texas

On January 29, EPA anticipates final action to functionally redesignate the Houston-Galveston-Brazoria area and approve their maintenance plan for the revoked 1-hour and 1997 8-hour ozone NAAQS.

Texas SIP Revisions to the New Source Review Program, Texas

By January 30, EPA anticipates approval of the February 22, 2019, SIP submittal to update the New Source Review (NSR) applicable requirements located at 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 116 in the Texas SIP was published in October 2019. Public Comment period on the proposed approval ended on December 4, 2019.

Upcoming Events

January 23	Navigable Waters Protection Announcement, Dallas, TX
January 23	Rural Waters Directors Meeting, Dallas, TX
January 27	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Regional Meeting, Dallas, TX
January 28	USACE Winter 2020 Resource Agency Meeting, Dallas, TX
January 30	Texas Chemical Council (TCC) Air Conservation Committee, Houston, TX
February 3	Queen Bess Island Restoration Project Ribbon Cutting, Grand Isle, LA
February 4,	2020 National Stormwater Conference, San Antonio, TX

Region 7Hot Topics**Carriage Cleaners Superfund Site Public Availability Sessions**

R7 held two public availability sessions January 21-22 to discuss current and proposed actions at a former dry cleaner site in Bellevue, Nebraska, that is being addressed through the Superfund removal program. The Carriage Cleaners site includes a groundwater contamination plume related to a chemical solvent called tetrachloroethylene, or PCE, which was used at a former dry-cleaning facility at the site. Sampling conducted by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy in 2019 determined that PCE and PCE degradation products such as trichloroethylene are also present in soil gas associated with this groundwater plume. These chemical contaminants have the potential to migrate into homes and commercial buildings through vapor intrusion and can create an indoor air quality issue and potential health concerns. To date, EPA has installed vapor mitigation systems at one residential property and six commercial business buildings. EPA is currently assessing whether PCE vapors have intruded into any additional buildings at the site. The public availability sessions are being conducted in coordination with state and local entities and will focus on sharing information on current and proposed actions at the site.

Southwest Jefferson County Public Availability Session

A public availability session was held in Hillsboro, MO, on January 23 to discuss site updates and recent sampling efforts. R7's updates addressed residential cleanup efforts and ongoing watershed investigation efforts. Additional attendees included the Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services, and the Jefferson County Health Department. Health information was also provided at the meeting, and a breakout session was offered to meet with each of the listed agencies and organizations.

Four-State Superfund Bi-Annual Meeting

R7 held a Four-State Superfund meeting at the regional office January 22-23. Attendees included state Superfund directors from Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, NDEE, and R7. The meeting covered a variety of Superfund remedial, removal, and administrative discussion topics. The next Four-State meeting will be hosted by NDEE in Omaha in July 2020.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Cleaner Trucks Initiative Roundtable**

RA Gulliford will join Kansas and Missouri transportation stakeholders on January 27, for a roundtable discussion of the Cleaner Trucks Initiative Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The event will take place at the YRC headquarters office in Overland Park, KS, at 12:00 p.m. Media engagement is not planned for the stakeholder roundtable. Headquarters personnel are also expected to attend the event.

Region 8Hot Topics**Update on Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Activities within Region 8**

Outside of the bloom season, R8 is continuing to support state/tribal efforts to address HABs.

- The Water Division submitted a RARE proposal to expand the use of satellite imagery data to evaluate bloom frequency and extent.
- Through an Innovation Grant, R7 and R8 funded a challenge competition for high schools to develop two-minute videos on how to identify and be safe around HABs. Nineteen videos were submitted and are currently under review.
- On February 4-6, R5, R7, and R8 are hosting a Great Plains/ Midwest HAB Workshop at the R7 office.
 - The workshop will highlight successful partnerships and best practices that address nutrient management and HABs.
 - A representative from each R8 state plans to attend.
- R8 continues to host monthly HABs webinars. Upcoming webinar topics include:
 - pre-response monitoring by DW facilities
 - HABs frequency and extent in forested vs. agricultural landscapes
 - Fate and Transport of cyanotoxins
 - Benthic cyanobacteria.

Billings, Montana, Perchloroethane Site

Montana Governor Steve Bullock has provided a letter of support that requests the EPA proceed with adding the Billings PCE Site to the National Priorities List (NPL). The Billings PCE site is an 860-acre contaminated perchloroethane groundwater plume originating from at least three former or active dry-cleaning facilities. This shallow plume underlies the residential, public, and commercial properties in the city of Billings, MT. Montana DEQ has expended significant resources to complete a Remedial Investigation at the site. The governor requests that those expenditures be applied to future state cost share obligations. The governor's office has received letters of support from the City of Billings, the Riverstone Board of Health, and the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council.

Montana Developers Complete Asbestos Cleanup with EPA Loan Funds

The City of Missoula used its EPA Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) grant to provide a \$670,000 loan to Riverfront Partners, LLC for asbestos abatement, clearing the way for redevelopment. Located on the banks of the Clark Fork River and adjacent to downtown Missoula, the future [HYPERLINK

"https://missoulia.com/news/local/details-unveiled-for-m-downtown-development/article_61519114-7c72-5c7f-8dde-4213466419ac.html" \l "tracking-source=home-top-story"] will include a 10-story hotel and condo building, a 60,000-square foot events center and a riverside outdoor plaza. Initial investment is estimated to be over \$100,000,000 and the project will generate over 200 permanent jobs once complete. "Four years ago, the Riverfront Triangle was eleven mishmashed lots of underutilized and vacant buildings... with the coming redevelopment the community will benefit for decades from this collaboration of private developer, local government, and EPA," said John Adams, City of Missoula Brownfields Coordinator. Missoula has issued 12 RLF loans and subgrants that have totaled \$4,303,139 for small and large projects across the city. These funds have directly leveraged \$143,515,702 in private investment. As loans are repaid, the City will continue to revolve funds and use this sustainable funding source to cleanup properties into the future.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report

Region 9Hot Topics**MGM Water Reuse and Food Recovery Tour (Las Vegas, NV)**

On January 22, RA Stoker joined Administrator Wheeler for a tour of MGM's ARIA Resort and learned about MGM's work to address water inefficiency and implement water reuse activities throughout their property. Next, they met with various kitchen staff members in ARIA's dining room, witnessed food waste prevention measures, and saw food recovery efforts in their recycling dock. MGM was recently recognized as the winner of EPA's Food Recovery Challenge Award for Hotels, Resorts and Lodging in 2018. They also are a 2030 Food Loss and Waste Champion through the joint U.S. Department of Agriculture-EPA program.

Navigable Waters Protection Rule Announcement (Phoenix, AZ)

On January 23, RA Stoker was joined by Congressman Paul Gosar and Col. Daryll Fust, Deputy Commander, Los Angeles District Army Corps of Engineers, for the announcement of the new Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR). The replacement for the 2015 Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule is intended to prevent federal overreach into state and local water and land-use decisions and eliminate unnecessary constraints on development and economic growth. The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality hosted the event.

Homesite Relocation Packages Delivered to Residents Near Haystack Mine Site (McKinley County, NM)

On January 7, EPA, Navajo EPA, and BNSF delivered homesite relocation packages for residents living on the Haystack Mine site in McKinley County, NM. The relocation will move the residents outside of the site boundary and away from construction activities that are anticipated to begin in the spring 2020 for a time-critical removal at the Haystack site.

Petition for Review of Phoenix Ozone Attainment Determination Filed in 9th Circuit

On January 9, the Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest filed a petition for review of Region 9's Determination of Attainment by the Attainment Date for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS for Phoenix-Mesa, AZ. R9 determined that the Phoenix Moderate nonattainment area timely attained the 2008 ozone NAAQS, which prevented the area from being reclassified to a Serious nonattainment area. The determination relied, in part, on R9 concurrence with state demonstrations that certain monitored exceedances of the 2008 ozone NAAQS were caused by exceptional events, specifically wildfires, which were the focus of adverse comments from petitioner.

Operating Industries Inc. (Monterey Park, CA)

EPA attended a kickoff meeting with Monterey Park Retail Partners and the OII Site Trust to discuss future redevelopment at the OII Landfill Superfund Site. An additional multistory shopping complex, parking garage and 300,000 sq./ft. of retail space has been proposed to be built on another portion of the Site. The proposed redevelopment will require close oversight to ensure the site remedy is not impacted.

CAA Mandatory Duty Lawsuit filed in Northern District of California

On January 20, Our Children's Earth Foundation filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California alleging EPA failed to perform a mandatory duty under section 110(k)(2) of the Clean Air Act to take final action on three California SIP submissions: a PM₁₀ Maintenance Plan Update for San Joaquin Valley, a 2008 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan for San Diego County, and a 2008 8-Hour Ozone Reasonably Available Control Technology SIP for San Diego County.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**UIC Permits**

This week, we will issue a final Class I Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit for the Alon Bakersfield Refinery located in the Fruitvale Oil Field in Bakersfield, CA. The permit authorizes continued operation of three wells for injecting non-hazardous waste. With EPA's issuance of the Class I UIC permit, the Central Valley Regional Board will rescind their Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) permit for the injection wells,

under which the facility has been operating since the early 1990s. Additionally, we will open a 30-day public comment period on a draft Class I Underground Injection Control (UIC) permit for the San Joaquin Refinery located in the Fruitvale Oil Field in Bakersfield, CA. The permit would authorize continued operation of one existing well and construction of one new well for injecting non-hazardous waste. The facility is currently permitted to inject pursuant to a WDR permit from the Central Valley Regional Board.

Treatment as State

During the week of January 27, we will request the RA's signature on a completeness letter for the Morongo Band of Mission Indians application for treatment in the same manner as a state. Morongo has applied for an eligibility determination for Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 105 grants and pollution planning and control. As part of the package we are also requesting the RA sign the Appropriate Government Entities (AGE) letters to start the 30-day public notice period on January 31.

CAA Permit Public Notice

During the week of January 27, we plan to public notice a combined Tribal Minor New Source Review and Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) air quality permit for the McElmo Creek Unit Oil Production Facility, an oil and gas operation located on the Navajo Nation Reservation in San Juan County, Utah. The permit action is for a compressor expansion project at the site to increase crude oil production at the site.

Kwajalein Atoll

On January 27, R9 will concur on final updated environmental standards for the U.S. Army facility on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. These standards are updated every other year to reflect changes in U.S. or Marshallese laws or regulations, operational changes, or other changes. R9 hosted the drafting committee in May 2019 with participation from the U.S. Army, Marshall Islands EPA, Army Corps of Engineers, NOAA NMFS, and USFWS. The updates were recommended with consensus from all parties.

Region 10Hot Topics

Nothing to report

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Region 10 and ORD Assist Anchorage Wastewater Treatment Plant with PFAS Challenges**

R10 and ORD staff and managers continue to assist the Anchorage, AK, waste water utility in the quest for solutions for disposing of PFAS contaminated biosolids produced by the plant. The parties are discussing collaboration on monitoring PFAS at the facility and in the emissions from biosolids incineration. If funding is available, ORD may be able to combine a project at the Anchorage WWTP with monitoring occurring during summer 2020 at the Moose Creek incinerator near Fairbanks. The potential project at the Anchorage WWTP/biosolids incinerator would help EPA better understand the fate of PFAS and the conditions needed for its destruction.

Region 10 Celebrates 20th Anniversary of Transboundary Salish Sea Statement of Cooperation

January 19 marked the 20th anniversary of the signing of the EPA-Environment Canada Joint Statement of Cooperation on the Puget Sound-Georgia Basin Ecosystem. The U.S. and Canadian federal governments have a unique responsibility to address the transboundary environmental challenges of our shared Salish Sea ecosystem (including Puget Sound). In 2000, EPA and Environment Canada signed a Joint Statement of Cooperation that committed the agencies to work collaboratively to achieve common goals. The agreement calls for the agencies to develop and periodically update action plans to achieve the goals outlined in the Statement of Cooperation. R10 and Environment and Climate Change Canada West and North Region have sustained this joint effort for two decades. [HYPERLINK "<https://www.epa.gov/puget-sound/us-canada-cooperation-salish-sea>"]

Region 10 to Participate in National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting

Region 10's Agriculture Advisor will attend the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV on February 8 and 9. The advisor will participate in the Tribal Outreach & Partnership Resource Policy Group on February 8 and then provide EPA updates at the joint Pacific and Southwest Region session on February 9. NACD's mission is to promote the wise and responsible use of natural resources for all lands by representing locally-led conservation districts and their associations through grassroots advocacy, education and partnerships. The association's programs and activities aim to advance conservation led by local districts and the millions of cooperating landowners and land managers they serve.

Office of Air and Radiation

Hot Topics

Packages for Signature

- Stationary Combustion Turbines RTR (Final Rule)
- Asphalt RTR (Final Rule)
- Revisions to Appendix P to 40 CFR Part 51, Concerning Minimum Emission Reporting Requirements in SIPs (Proposed Rule)

Packages at OMB for Review

- Vehicle Test Procedure Adjustments for Tier 3 Test Fuel (Proposed Rule: RECEIVED DATE February 25, 2019)
- Light Duty Greenhouse Gas Program Technical Amendments (Final Rule: RECEIVED DATE July 19, 2019)
- MATS RTR & Cost Review (Final Rule: RECEIVED DATE October 4, 2019)
- Strat Ozone - Section 608 Refrigerant Management – Revisions (Final Rule: RECEIVED DATE October 4, 2019)
- SAFE (Final Rule: RECEIVED DATE January 14, 2020)
- Residential Wood Heaters NSPS Amendments (Final Rule: RECEIVED)

Packages Heading to OMB Soon

- Boiler MACT (Proposed Rule)
- MATS Coal Refuse-Fired Units Review (Final Rule)
- Fuels Regulatory Streamlining (Proposed Rule)
- Biogenic CO2 Emissions (Proposed Rule)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution PreventionHot Topics**Novel Coronavirus Triggers Emerging Viral Pathogens Guidance**

Confirmation of the first U.S. case of the novel *2019-nCoV* coronavirus, first identified in Wuhan, China, has for the first time triggered OPP's emerging viral pathogens guidance, implemented in 2016. The guidance outlines a voluntary, two-stage process. During Phase 1 (Pre-Outbreak), registrants with eligible disinfectant products may request to add a statement on the emerging viral pathogen to labels. This pre-qualifies the registrant to make claims for the emerging virus in the event of an outbreak. During Phase 2 (Post-Outbreak), the registrant could include an efficacy statement in technical literature distributed exclusively to health care facilities, physicians, nurses and public health officials, and information sources for the public.

Carbon Tetrachloride (Carbon Tet) Risk Evaluation (RE)

No later than January 24, OPPT will release the draft RE for carbon tetrachloride, covering 15 conditions of use, including agricultural products manufacturing, manufacturing of chlorinated compounds, and more. Carbon tet is the seventh of the first 10 chemicals to undergo RE under amended TSCA. There will be a 60-day comment period. A peer review meeting of EPA's Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) on the draft risk evaluation will be held February 25-26.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**Glyphosate Herbicide and Neonicotinoid Insecticides**

The week of January 27, OPP plans to publish an interim decision for the registration review of glyphosate and a preliminary interim decision (PID) for neonicotinoids. Glyphosate poses no risks of concern for human health, but potential risks of concern for birds, mammals, and non-target plants. The neonicotinoids PID will be accompanied by the most comprehensive pollinator assessment EPA has conducted to date, as these insecticides can adversely impact hives.

New Products to Fight Dangerous Fungal Infections

Next week, in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control, OPP will announce availability of the first 10 products registered to fight *c. auris*, an emerging fungal pathogen causing serious and sometimes fatal fungal infections, especially in hospitalized patients, and that can be resistant to antifungal drugs.

Other Major Pesticides Actions

Next week, OCSPP will authorize a new use for the herbicide Invora in four states and will solicit comment on draft risk assessments for the antifoulant Irgarol and the soil fumigant 1,3-D, and on a PID for the soil fumigant methyl bromide.

Pollution Prevention Grants

Next week, OCSPP will invite applications for Pollution Prevention grants focusing on food and beverage manufacturing, automotive manufacturing, chemical manufacturing, and other national emphasis areas.

Preliminary List of Manufacturers and Importers Subject to Risk Evaluation (RE) Fees

Following the December action finalizing the next 20 chemicals to undergo RE, OCSPP will soon publish the preliminary list of manufacturers and importers of those chemicals. Under the TSCA Fees Rule, manufacturers or importers of chemicals undergoing TSCA §6 RE must pay the fee associated with EPA-initiated REs. During the 60-day comment period, listed firms must report whether they are still manufacturing and/or importing these chemicals and can certify as a "small business concern" for a reduced fee, or other certification to avoid the fee. OCSPP expects to publish the final list in June.

Long Chain Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Significant New Use Rule (SNUR)

OPPT will soon propose stronger regulations on imported products containing certain persistent long-chain PFAS chemicals. The proposal would require EPA review of imported products containing certain PFAS substances and would give EPA authority to prohibit import of products containing these PFAS chemicals or to impose restrictions to protect public health.

Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Chemical Data Reporting (CDR) Revisions

OCSPP will soon finalize a rule amending TSCA CDR requirements, which requires manufacturers (including importers) of certain chemical substances listed on the TSCA Inventory to report manufacturing, processing, and use data every four years. The updated regulation will align with TSCA as amended, improve the CDR data collected, and potentially reduce burden for certain CDR reporters. A separate action will finalize an amendment updating the size standards definition for small manufacturers for reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

60th Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Joint Meeting (JM)

The OECD JM of the Chemicals Committee and the Working Party on Chemicals, Pesticides and Biotechnology meets every eight months to discuss issues relating to the harmonization of chemical safety tools and policies across jurisdictions, as well as to monitor ongoing work, set priorities, and agree to future work. OPPT Deputy Director Tala Henry will participate in the next meeting on February 3 in Paris.

American Law Institute Continuing Legal Education (ALI-CLE) Conference

AA Dunn will present on “Toxic Substances and Emerging Contaminants: Legal Issues and Latest Developments” February 6 at the ALI-CLE conference, co-sponsored by the Environmental Law Institute.

Selected One-Month Look-Ahead

January	For isoxaflutole, a proposed conditional registration (in 332 counties) of a new use on soybeans that have been genetically modified to be resistant to this herbicide, to control weeds in the field
February	TRI National Analysis roll-out across the country
February	Designation of low-priority chemicals under TSCA
February	CBI Review Plan Rule

Office of the Chief Financial OfficerHot Topics**FY 2020 Operating Plan**

The agency's FY 2020 Operating Plan is due to Congress on February 10. OCFO briefed the Administrator on payroll, FTE levels and non-payroll funding levels included in the plan. OCFO plans to release guidance on the Operating Plan this week to the agency's resource community.

FY 2021 President's Budget

The federal government's FY 2021 President's Budget request will be submitted to Congress on February 10, at which time the EPA's FY 2021 Congressional Justification will be made available to the public. OCFO is working with the agency to develop the FY 2021 CJ and supplemental materials

GAO and OIG Audits and Activities

New agency entrance conferences since the last weekly report:

GAO Audits – Week Ending 1/17/2020				
Audit Type	Title	Office	Engagement/ Report No.	Next Steps/Comments
Entrance Conference	EPA's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) Program	ORD	Engagement Code 103997	Entrance conference - January 29

OIG Audits – Week Ending 1/17/2020				
Audit #	Title	Status	Office	Next Steps/Comments
None.				

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**FY 2019 Annual Performance Report**

OCFO is preparing the Administrator's statement for signature by January 30 supporting the reliability and completeness of performance data in the FY 2019 Annual Performance Report. The FY 2019 APR will be issued as part of the FY 2021 CJ due to Congress on February 10

Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations

Hot Topics

- January 28 HEC subcommittees on Energy and on Environment and Climate Change will hold a hearing entitled, "Out of Control: The Impact of Wildfires on our Power Sector and the Environment." No EPA witness is expected to testify
- January 28 Legislative Hearing: H.R. 4891, H.R. 5316, and H.R. 5347, discuss legislative proposals impacting DOI responsibilities relating to drinking water, water efficiency, desalination, drought, and related topics, House Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife
- February 5 Hearing on Recycling Efforts before the House Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies (witness: OLEM AA Peter Wright)

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- January 27 (t) Postponed from September 2019- follow up briefing for Senate Foreign Relations/Environment and Public Works Committee staff on Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
- Week of February 3 (tent.) House T&I majority briefing on WIFIA-Reclamation MOU & Appropriations language with OW
- February 7 Charter Renewal of the Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Committee

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Hot Topics

Mississippi Lab Director Sentenced to Prison for Falsifying Lab Results Concerning Water Quality

On January 16th, John Couey, a lab operator hired to test water samples to help insure water quality for dozens of towns throughout the Mississippi Delta was sentenced in the Northern District of Mississippi. Couey was sentenced to 18 months in prison for submitting false statements and lab results to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality. Couey is the owner and lab director of Davis Research, Inc., an environmental analytical laboratory located in Avon, Mississippi. Davis Research performed analytical testing services for more than 100 cities, towns, state and federal agencies, and businesses in the Mississippi Delta. Couey, as lab director, falsified over 1,000 laboratory reports that were submitted to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality to demonstrate compliance under the Clean Water Act.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

In accordance with the October 9, 2019 Executive Order 13892, *Promoting the Rule of Law Through Transparency and Fairness in Civil Administrative Enforcement and Adjudication*, we anticipate publication next month in the Federal Register of a rule that describes agency procedure for conducting civil administrative inspections.

Office of General CounselHot Topics***New York, et al. v. Wheeler*, No. 1:20-cv-00419 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 16, 2020)**

New Litigation: The States of New York and Connecticut filed a complaint alleging that EPA failed to meet its nondiscretionary duty under Clean Air Act section 110(c) to promulgate federal implementation plans (FIPs) for five upwind states (Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia) under the Act's "good neighbor provision," section 110(a)(2)(D)(i)(I). The plaintiffs allege that the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) Update constituted only a partial remedy for interstate transport under the 2008 ozone NAAQS and seek declaratory relief and an injunction compelling EPA to "promulgate a fully compliant FIP" for those states by a court-ordered deadline. Notably, two years ago the same plaintiffs filed a complaint alleging the same violation of the Clean Air Act with respect to the same CSAPR Update rule. That district court litigation was resolved when EPA issued the CSAPR Close-Out. *New York v. Pruitt*, 18-cv-406 (S.D.N.Y.). Now that the D.C. Circuit has vacated the CSAPR Close-Out in *New York v. EPA*, 781 Fed. Appx. 4 (2019), the plaintiffs have filed this new lawsuit.

***In re County of Los Alamos, New Mexico*, No. NPDES 20-02 (Environmental Appeals Board, Jan. 17)**

New Petition: The County of Los Alamos, NM, filed a petition for review requesting EAB's review of EPA R6's December 16, 2019, "Designation Decision and Record of Decision in Response to Petition by Amigos Bravos for a Determination that Stormwater Discharges in Los Alamos County Contribute to WQS Violations and Require CWA Permits." The petitioners argue that EPA erred by not issuing its decision within 90 days, by not establishing that the receiving waters are jurisdictional, and that EPA's process for determining that the discharges contribute to water quality standards (WQS) exceedances was in error, an abuse of discretion, improper, and contrary to EPA's regulations.

***Our Children's Earth Foundation v. Wheeler*, No. 20-cv-396 (N.D. Ca. Jan. 20)**

New Litigation: The complaint alleges that EPA failed to perform its mandatory duty to take final action on three California State Implementation Plan (SIP) submissions: a PM10 Maintenance Plan Update for San Joaquin Valley, a 2008 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan for San Diego County, and a 2008 8-Hour Ozone Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) SIP for San Diego County.

***Center for Biological Diversity et al v. Wheeler*, No. 20-cv-448 (N.D. Ca. Jan. 22)**

New Litigation: The complaint alleges that EPA failed to perform certain mandatory duties arising from SIP requirements to address the Oil and Natural Gas Industry Control Technology Guidelines (CTG) Reasonable Available Control Technology (RACT). The complaint alleges that EPA (1) failed to make findings of failure to submit under CAA § 110(k)(1)(B) with regard to 19 nonattainment and ozone transport areas in 9 states for the 2008 ozone NAAQS, (2) failed to take final acting approving or disapproving CTG RACT SIP submittals for four areas in three states for the 2008 ozone NAAQS, and (3) failed to take final acting approving or disapproving CTG RACT SIP submittals for one state for the 2015 ozone NAAQS.

Upcoming Events**Oral Argument Wednesday January 22: *Producers of Renewables United v. EPA*, No. 19-9532 (10th Cir.)**

This lawsuit challenges five EPA actions taken under the Clean Air Act's Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program to replace Renewable Identification Numbers or "RINs" granted to Intervenor-Respondents Sinclair and HollyFrontier on remand from judgments in the Tenth Circuit. This case originated in the D.C. Circuit where the Petitioner challenged both the RIN replacement and several EPA rulemakings. The D.C. Circuit transferred the RIN replacement challenges to the Tenth Circuit and dismissed the remaining challenges.

Office of International and Tribal AffairsHot Topics**USMCA Update**

Although the USMCA was signed by POTUS, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on November 30, 2018, each country's legislature must ratify the agreement. Following passage by the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate passed the USMCA implementing legislation on January 16. The Mexican legislature ratified the agreement in June 2019 and the Canadian legislature must now ratify it. Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau announced that he will submit implementing legislation to the House of Commons on January 29. There is a required 21-legislative day period for the House consideration before it can be sent to the Senate for consideration, after which royal assent to ratification is requested from the Crown, e.g. the Canadian Governor General. The USMCA will then enter into force 90 days after Canada ratifies the agreement.

U.S.-Kenya Free Trade Agreement

Kenyan President Kenyatta will lead Kenya's delegation to the next U.S.-Kenya Trade and Investment Working Group meeting in Washington February 3-7. Presidents Trump and Kenyatta are expected to announce their intent to begin negotiations on a comprehensive bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) starting in May 2020. EPA and other agencies will meet with Kenyan officials February 4 to discuss the environmental elements of the agreement and Kenya's priorities for environmental cooperation and capacity building. The U.S. Embassy Nairobi anticipates that Kenya will identify waste management/recycling, wastewater treatment, marine litter, and EIA as their environmental priorities.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

January 24	CEQ and EPA (OITA, OP) will participate in a conference call with the Canadian Impact Assessment Agency to discuss the new NEPA regulations and Canada's new Impact Assessment Act, particularly as it relates to transboundary and cumulative effects.
January 29 to February 3	The Administrator will travel to Brazil to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between EPA and the Brazilian Ministry of Environment, which includes cooperation on water quality, marine litter and waste management.
January 30	EPA (OITA, R8, and OGC) will meet with Teck Resources to discuss transboundary mining issues between British Columbia and Montana, particularly as it relates to the West Line Creek facility and Lake Koocanusa.

Office of the Land and Emergency Management

Hot Topics

Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR)

- CCR Phase 2 proposed rule (package 1) – On October 15, 2019, the public comment period ended; OLEM is reviewing the comments.
- CCR permitting NPRM (package 3) – This was signed and announced on December 19, 2019. We received edits from the Office of the Federal Register (OFR) and anticipate changing the public hearing date before sending the package back to OFR for publication.
- CCR litigation packages (package 2, parts A and B) – On December 2, 2019, the Part A NPRM package was published in the FR; the 60-day public comment period ends on January 31. Part B is with OMB for expedited review; we anticipate receiving most interagency comments this week. OMB is targeting no later than mid-February to conclude review.

Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites

We are working with R1 on the Housatonic River; R2 on Woodbrook Road and Rolling Knolls; R4 on Oak Ridge, Birmingham 35th Ave., and Petroleum Products Corporation; R8 on Anaconda Smelter; and R10 on Portland Harbor, Quendall Terminal, Bradford Island, and East Waterway.

CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance (next three sectors)

On December 4, the Industry 2 (Petroleum and Coal) rule package was signed by the court-ordered deadline. The rule was published in the FR on December 23, and the public comment period ends on February 21. OLEM is working with OMB to address comments on the Industry 3 (Chemical Manufacturing) NPRM package. We anticipate OMB concluding its review soon.

PFAS

Designation of PFOA/PFOS as CERCLA Hazardous Substances NPRM. The rule package was submitted to the Office of Policy on September 20 for OMB review.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

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| February 4 | Steven Cook and others from headquarters and the regions will participate in the Community Involvement Conference in Chicago. |
| February 5 | On February 5, Peter Wright will testify before the Interior Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. The hearing will focus on the nation's recycling efforts, including challenges that state and local governments face with respect to recycling and an exploration of critical priorities to improve the economics and stability of the recycling market. OLEM is working closely with OCIR to prepare for the hearing. In early February, Peter plans to do an on-camera interview with CNBC regarding recycling for a story to be aired at a later date. |

Office of Mission Support

Hot Topics

SES SL/ST Pay for Performance and SES Certification Update

The agency's SES certification package was submitted to the Office of Personnel Management on January 17, for certification determination. EPA's current SES system is certified through March 11. All proposed 2019 SES, SL/ST performance ratings, reviewed by PRB and ERB, are approved and final. [HYPERLINK "https://www.federalregister.gov/executive-order/13901"] effected the 2020 pay freeze provisions for non-career SES and retained bonus freeze. Approved career SES and SL/ST pay increases and bonus determinations are in process to be paid out in leave and earnings statements dated February 11 (pay) and 25 (bonus). The Executive Resources staff are in process of transmitting final/approved spreadsheets to each organizational component.

Office 365 Advanced Threat Protection (ATP) Safe Links Implementation

The Office of Mission Support is continuing our efforts to better protect agency systems, OMS completed its implementation of ATP Safe Attachments on January 17 and is implementing ATP Safe Links beginning this Friday evening (January 24). ATP Safe Links will safeguard our messaging system by checking and blocking malicious or unsafe links embedded in emails and any other Office 365 application for malicious content.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Nothing to report.

Office of PolicyHot Topics**Executive Order on Agency Guidance**

By January 31, the Office of Policy has asked all programs and regions to confirm that they have received policy-level approval of their respective inventories of guidance documents.

New Economics Tool

On January 31, a panel of the Science Advisory Board will be hosting a public teleconference call to discuss their review of the agency's new tool (Computable General Equilibrium) developed by the National Center for Environmental Economics to evaluate the economy-wide economic impacts of regulatory actions. The draft report was released to the public on January 16.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Documents Sent to the OFR from January 16 -22, 2020		
FRL #	Title	Date Sent to FR
10003-14-OCSP	Preliminary List Identifying Manufacturers Subject to Fee Obligations for EPA-Initiated Risk Evaluations under Section 6 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); Notice of Availability and Request for Comment	01-22-2020
10004-48-OA	Notification of a Public Meeting of the Chartered Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC)	01-22-2020
10004-53-OMS	NESHAP for Beryllium (Renewal)/ICR 0193.13	01-22-2020
10004-64-ORD	Integrated Science Assessment for Particulate Matter	01-22-2020
10004-74-OMS	NSPS for Rubber Tire Manufacturing (Renewal)/ICR 1158.13	01-22-2020
10004-62-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Minnesota; Revision to Taconite Federal Implementation Plan	01-22-2020
10003-92-OCSP	Notice, Carbon Tetrachloride; Draft Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Risk Evaluation and Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) Meetings	01-21-2020
10004-34-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; Massachusetts; Transport State Implementation Plan for the 2015 Ozone Standard	01-17-2020
10004-55-OAR	National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutant Emissions: Petroleum Refinery Sector	01-17-2020
10004-56-OAR	Revisions to the Petition Provisions of the Title V Permitting Program	01-17-2020
10004-44-Region 1	Notice of Memorandum of Agreement for Delegation of Authority; Connecticut; New Source Performance Standards and National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants	01-17-2020
10004-65-OGC	Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request; Renewal of Existing Information Collection Request for Confidential Business Information Substantiation	01-17-2020
10003-88-Region 6	Notice of Availability of Final Designation of Certain Stormwater Discharges in the State of New Mexico Under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System of the Clean Water Act	01-16-2020
10004-50-Region 10	Completeness Determination; AK: Fairbanks North Star Borough 2006 24-hour Fine Particulate Matter Serious Attainment Plan	01-16-2020
10004-61-OW	Notice of webinar briefing and public meeting	01-16-2020

10004-52-Region 8	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Partial Deletion of the OU1 of the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site	01-16-2020
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Office of Research and Development

Hot Topics

House Appropriations Visit to RTP

Kusai Merchant from the House Appropriations committee will be visiting the RTP campus on Thursday and Friday. He will be briefed on ORD's many activities and will also visit with other EPA programs and NIEHS.

PFAS Treatment and Remediation Technical Exchange with USACE and EPA-Cincinnati

This week, Army Corps of Engineering (USACE) will meet with ORD researchers in Cincinnati. Participants will discuss PFAS treatment and analytical issues. USACE will use the PFAS information gained from this technical exchange to support its Engineer Research and Development Center.

Researcher to Give Court Deposition as Notified by Region 5

The Department of Justice is requesting ORD researcher Dr. Mike Shock to participate in a deposition relating to the Federal Torts Claims Act lawsuit filed by residents of Flint, Michigan. Dr. Shock served as an expert on lead corrosion and chemistry in EPA's response to the water contamination incident in the City of Flint. The depositions are scheduled to begin between February and June 2020.

ORD SMaRT search tool

ORD recently launched the EPA [[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-science-models-and-research-tools-smart-search"](https://www.epa.gov/research/epa-science-models-and-research-tools-smart-search)] tool that can be used to explore and identify scientific products developed by ORD for use in environmental decision making and research. The online inventory contains about 150 science products including models, decision-support resources and databases.

CASAC Report Released (Jan. 21)

The Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) released its draft report to Administrator Wheeler outlining their review of the Draft Ozone Integrated Science Assessment (Draft O3 ISA) prepared by ORD and the Draft Ozone Policy Assessment (Draft O3 PA) developed by OAR. The CASAC is holding a follow-on public teleconference in February 2020 to discuss these draft CASAC reports.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

NAMs Workshop, January 29

This is an EPA, invitation-only, one-day workshop focused on developing a NAMs Workplan consistent with the September 10, 2019, memo from Administrator Wheeler titled "[[HYPERLINK "https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-09/documents/image2019-09-09-231249.pdf"](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-09/documents/image2019-09-09-231249.pdf)]." The goal of this meeting is to inform development of the NAMs Workplan. Working subgroups will develop an outline and schedule for the next steps and completion of the workplan.

Continuing Support to Brownsville, Texas, for Green Infrastructure Initiative

From February 10 to 12, ORD is facilitating a three-day green infrastructure community design workshop for EPA's Greening America's Communities Program. ORD is leading a design team that will create concept designs for roadways and public spaces adjacent to the Land Port of Entry (LPOE). The concept designs from this workshop will assist U.S. General Services Administration, the City of Brownsville, and other local stakeholders with deciding how to fund and maintain green infrastructure and pedestrian-oriented designs near the LPOE site. This workshop is part of a continuing effort involving U.S. Customs and Border Protection, R6, Texas Department of Transportation, county government, community leaders and local universities to manage stormwater and improve public spaces.

Office of Water

Hot Topics

Navigable Waters Protection Rule - Final Rule

This week, the Office of Water moved forward for signature by the Administrator and the Army's Assistant Secretary for Civil Works the final rule revising the definition of "waters of the United States." The rule was signed January 23. The rule replaces the recently recodified 1986/88 regulations on the definition of the "waters of the United States" and fulfills the EPA's response to the February 2017 Executive Order to revise the definition. OW will support the Administrator's announcement at the NAHB International Builders' Show in Las Vegas on January 23 and is planning a public webcast on the final rule for [HYPERLINK "x-apple-data-detectors://"]

WIFIA Loan - Coachella Valley Water District

Next week, EPA will close a WIFIA loan with the Coachella Valley Water District in Coachella, California to help finance two projects to make stormwater channel improvements. The project will increase the capacity to capture and convey stormwater. The loan will provide \$59.1 million in project financing while project construction and operation are expected to create 378 jobs.

Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

Trust in Food Symposium

Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water Anna Wildeman will provide remarks during two sessions of the Farm Journal 2020 Trust in Food Symposium. First, PDAA Wildeman will provide mainstage remarks regarding the EPA's effort to promote partnerships across all sectors, including the agricultural sector, on water quality issues. Second, she will participate on a panel, covering topics such as the EPA's priorities related to watershed restoration, nutrients, and water quality trading. Chicago, IL. Open press.